

## Punta Gorda

Is the county seat of Charlotte county. Population of town, 1920 census, 1,295. Increase for 10 years 23 percent.

# The Punta Gorda Herald

## The Herald

Is the oldest newspaper published on the lower southwest coast and the only one in Charlotte county.

Punta Gorda, in Tropical Southwest Florida, is Advantageously Located on Charlotte Harbor, One of the Largest Land-Locked Bays on the Gulf of Mexico, and is a Town with a Bright Future, Commercially and Agriculturally

Volume XXXIV.—Number 3

PUNTA GORDA, CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, JANUARY 20th, 1922

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## CO. COMMISSIONERS TALK MUCH BUT DO NOTHING

Preliminary Engineering Would Not Cost Anything if Proposed Election Should Carry

The meeting of the county commissioners, Saturday afternoon, resulted in nothing being done, but much said. The entire time of the session was taken up in a discussion of the proposition that an election be called to decide the question of issuing bonds to refund all outstanding road and bridge bonds and to hard surface the Tamiami Trail (State Road No. 5) through the county from the Sarasota to the Lee county line. The members of the board present were Chairman Windham and Messrs. Whitten, Knight and Hobson. Otto Gottfried of McCall, who has been recommended as the successor of J. H. Wood, resigned, but who, for some reason, has not received his commission, was present. Clerk Blount was requested to write to the governor and inquire about the delay in Mr. Gottfried's case.

The clerk read the resolutions of the Commercial Club, in which the board was commended for the earnest attention given all the county's interests, particularly the building of good roads, and asking the board to call an election to settle the bonding proposition, as mentioned above. During the protracted discussion that ensued, F. Perry King presented a written offer from E. V. Camp to make all the necessary preliminary surveys and furnish guaranteed estimates on condition that, if bonds should be voted, he should be employed as engineer to supervise the building operations and be paid for his services according to the scale adopted by the Georgia State Road Commission; but, if bonds should not be voted, there would be no charge for making the preliminary surveys and estimates.

Following is Engineer Camp's proposition, dated January 14th, and addressed to the county commissioners, in full:

Punta Gorda, Fla., Jan. 14, 1922  
Hon. Board of County Commissioners  
(Continued on last page)

### No Pay—No "Juice."

In this issue of the Herald notice is being served to consumers of electric current that bills must be paid on or before the 10th of the month, or the service will be discontinued without notice. This is a long-established rule of the electric and water departments. Asked the why and wherefore of the notice, the city manager said that the Southern Utilities Company, who furnish the town with current and water, demanded payment for the service and if those who get the service do not pay their bills the town cannot pay the utilities company, and if the town did not pay the utilities company they would, in all probability, shut down the generators and the entire town would be without light and power.

### Stockholders Meeting

At an adjourned meeting of the stockholders of the Punta Gorda State Bank held Saturday, the following directors were elected: W. L. Koon, Clay Chadwick, S. J. Chadwick, S. P. Bruton and Mrs. Marian A. McAdow. These chose W. L. Koon, President; Clay Chadwick, vice-president; W. R. DeLoach, cashier and Miss Grace Laubach, assistant cashier. The policy was adopted of paying the 8 percent dividends in quarterly installments. J. R. Anthony of Jacksonville, vice-president of the Witham banking system, of which the Punta Gorda Bank is a member, was present at the meeting and highly complimented the officials on their efficiency and the wise methods pursued by them.

### Enjoy Taffy Pullin'

The P. G. J. B. Club met in their appointed place on the Charlotte Harbor side of the bay Monday night and enjoyed a taffy pullin'—until the rain came and drove them back home. Arriving in Punta Gorda the pullin' was finished in front of Mote's store. Those who enjoyed the occasion were: Dick Edmonds, chef; Bill Lucas, master; Robert Hayman, the cook; F. Wilson Kaler, captain; Manley Rogers, Roy Caldwell, B. Maupin, and (fire builder) W. B. Lewis. The boys are regretting the departure of their captain, Mr. Kaler, who left Tuesday for Orlando. A marshmallow roast is on the program for next Monday night.

### Kicked by "Lizzie"

J. C. Anderson is carrying his right arm in a sling as a result of being kicked by his lizzie. The arm was not broken, but severely and painfully sprained.

## FORTNIGHTLY CLUB

Gives Delightful Reception for Newly Elected President

One of the most enjoyable social functions of the season was the reception given by the Fortnightly Club on Thursday, the 12th inst., at the home of Mrs. Wilma Fries. It was in honor of the club's recently elected president, Mrs. Ethel Whitten, and was attended by about sixty members and guests of the club. The retiring president, Mrs. Grace Davis, in a graceful speech introduced her successor, who responded in a brilliant address, setting forth the needs of the world, and the part women's federated clubs might have in alleviating humanity's distress. She spoke especially of plans of work for child welfare and urged the club to do its part to better the condition of children.

After the speeches a comedy by Howells, entitled "The Mouse Trap," was presented by the club, Mrs. Esther Jordan and Miss Norma Pepper taking the leading parts, supported by Mrs. Grace Davis, Mrs. Oswald, Miss Bertha Pepper and Mrs. Sallie Jordan. It was cleverly rendered and much appreciated by the company. After this a social hour was enjoyed, during which a salad course, followed by ice cream, cake and coffee was served by a committee consisting of Mesdames Fries, Carleton, Mason, Clara Davis, Slocum, Weeks, Rankin, Blount, Mary Hewitt, Robinson, Sikes and Miss Blake.

Among the out-of-town guests who enjoyed this delightful affair were Miss McNeil of Three Rivers, Mich.; Mrs. Shaffer, Mrs. Palmer, and Mrs. Southwick, of Stevens Point, Wis.; Mrs. Spears, of Columbus, Ohio; Mrs. Safford, of Demorest, Georgia; Miss Nellie Holderby, of Carmel, Illinois; Mrs. Morris, of Atlanta; Mrs. Curry and Miss Conn, of Louisville; and Mrs. Wyatt, of Spirit Lake, Idaho.

### Scouts Take Merit Tests

Gilbert and William Grunwell took the final tests for Scout merit badges before members of the court of honor last Friday and made excellent marks. A number of other scouts finished up their second class Scout tests.

## CITY VALUATION BOARD NAMED BY COMMISSION

Whitten, Hagan and Fries Appointed; Will Equalize the City Assessment

At an adjourned meeting of the City Commission, January 15th, W. M. Whitten, John Hagan and C. L. Fries were appointed on the valuation board in accordance with the new city charter.

The duty of the valuation board is to "make diligent inquiry as to the value of all real property" and submit in a written report its finding to the city commission. The values as reported by the board "shall be the values at which the taxable land and improvements in the city shall be assessed," subject, of course to review by the City Commission.

It will be the duty of the valuation board to determine the value of all property in the city in relation to other property. For instance, the owner of one of the most valuable and desirable residences on Marian avenue pays \$35 a year in taxes, while two little shanties on small lots in the rear of his property pay \$17. It is obvious that if the \$17 tax on the two shanties is not too high, then the man paying \$35 should pay much more, but if \$17 is too much tax on the shanties, then \$35 may be about right for the fine house on Marian avenue. It is such things as this the valuation board must decide, but the new charter's provisions are such that every property owner is given, and must be given, every opportunity to show that his assessment is too high or too low, whichever the case may be.

At a meeting of the commission Tuesday night the new license tax law was passed on second reading. It will be passed on third and final reading at the next meeting. The new ordinance defining the fire zone is published in this issue of the Herald.

### New Doctor

Dr. E. L. Rasmussen, the well known nature path, formerly of Fort Myers, has moved to Punta Gorda and opened offices in McAdow building. Dr. Rasmussen is the inventor of an anesthetic which is said to be superior to any in common use today.

Planning the arrangement of the equipment in the kitchen so as to eliminate needless steps also eliminates wasting energy.

## COMMERCIAL CLUB WANTS BONDING ELECTION CALLED; PASS RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE COMMISSIONERS

Resolution Was Passed With But One Dissenting Vote at a Well Attended Meeting of Club Last Friday Night; Club to Meet Again Tonight.

At its last meeting the Punta Gorda Commercial Club adopted a resolution commending every action so far taken by the Charlotte county commissioners looking to the improvement of the Tamiami trail and calling upon the commissioners to determine the cost of the contemplated work and immediately call an election, an being the only means whereby the will of a majority of the people may be ascertained.

Following is the resolution, which was passed with one dissenting vote:

"Whereas, the Punta Gorda Commercial Club recognizes the vital importance to Punta Gorda and Charlotte county of State Road Number Five (otherwise known as the Tamiami trail) and having spent much time and money and effort during the past two years to secure the designation of this road as a State road and to promote its improvement, be it

"Resolved: That this club commends every action so far taken by the Honorable Board of County Commissioners looking to the improvement of Charlotte county's portion of State Road Number Five and that it urge upon the honorable board that since they have by resolution declared it to be their judgment that it would be expedient and to the best interests of the county to issue bonds for the said county to provide means for the permanent improvement of this vital highway, that they immediately, or as soon as possible, in pursuance of their resolutions on this subject, call an election to determine if a majority of the freeholders of the county wish to issue bonds sufficient to provide for the grading and hard-surfacing of State Road Number Five from the Sarasota county line to the Lee county line through Charlotte county, an election being the only means whereby the will of the majority may be ascertained; but that in order to guard against the disappointment and dissatisfaction that has heretofore followed the expenditure of funds obtained by issue of bonds, that before the election is called, the commissioners are requested to employ a competent engineer to prepare complete plans and specifications and accurate estimates of work to be done, and a guaranteed estimate of the cost of said work, including cost of superintendence and inspection. Be it further resolved

"That the Commissioners be requested to have this work done by contract let to the lowest bidder after the legal advertisement for bids and that no contracts be awarded until it shall appear that the entire work can be completed within the appropriation. Be it further resolved

"That this Commercial Club extend to our county commissioners a unanimous vote of thanks for their efforts in behalf of this project, which up to recently has been particularly this club's project, and that Hon. R. S. Windham, chairman of the board, be commended for his activity in behalf of this vital highway and in securing valuable and much needed road machinery for Charlotte county from the State Road Department." Be it further resolved

"That copies of this resolution be sent to the Board of County Commissioners and to Hon. R. S. Windham and entered in the club's minutes.

"Passed, with one dissenting vote, at the meeting on January 13, 1922."

In this connection, a letter received by Secretary Price from the secretary of the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce will be of interest as showing the interest of Sarasota and Sarasota county in the Tamiami trail. Following are excerpts from the letter:

"At a recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce for Sarasota county, it was unanimously voted to make the completion of the Tamiami trail the slogan of the Sarasota County Chamber of Commerce.

"I am sure Punta Gorda realizes that there is no one thing which will do more to further the progress of the west coast section of South Florida than the entire completion of this trail. \* \* \* There can be no question but that the almost unbelievable development in some sections of the state within the past ten years has been due almost exclusively to good roads, and I think this is the one time for Sarasota, Punta Gorda, Fort Myers and other towns and hamlets along the trail to join together in a demand for the completion of this trail without any further unnecessary delays. \* \* \* I would appreciate it if you would advise me what is being done to make Charlotte county's link complete. \* \* \* L. S. Moody, secretary."

Very little besides the bonding proposition and a proposed Charlotte county exhibit at the Tampa fair was discussed at the meeting of the club. Judging from the expressions, with three exceptions, the twenty or more members present were in favor of bonding for the trail.

After some discussion, it was suggested, and a motion made and seconded but not voted upon, that no attempt be made to have an exhibit at the fair.

## CLUB STILL GROWING

Punta Gorda Tourist Club Now Has 104 Members

The Punta Gorda Tourist Club added 10 new members to its list Tuesday evening, when one of the most enjoyable meetings of the season was held. Every seat in the hall was taken and everyone seemed to be glad they attended.

On account of the Woman's Civic Association having an entertainment next Tuesday evening, it was decided that the next meeting of the club be held Monday evening so that those who so wish may attend the Civic Association's entertainment, which the club has been assured will be very enjoyable.

After the regular business meeting, the entertainment committee took charge and delighted everyone.

The glee club quartet sang "Old Black Joe," which was enjoyed by all.

Fourteen states are represented in the club's membership and as the secretary called the name of a state, those from that state were asked to rise and some one of that state's delegation make a short talk about their state. This seemed to drag for just a few minutes, then nearly everyone caught the spirit, and all were so proud of their states it was hard to find a stopping place. Many splendid talks, full of both information and wit, were made and this feature proved the "hit" of the evening.

No less enjoyed, however, were several pieces played on a french harp by Mr. Sellars and the clog dancing by Hugh C. Card, sr., aged 79, which would do credit to one in the prime of life.

Two readings given by Mrs. Pepper were delightful and in full keeping with the enthusiastic meeting.

Mrs. Goldie announced that the woman's needlework club would meet Wednesday, and all ladies are invited to attend.

The new members received were: Mrs. O. L. Deadwyler, Carlton, Ga.; Mrs. McCann; C. J. Pennock and wife, Kennett Square, Pa.; Mrs. W. E. Lester, city; Mrs. Frank A. Southwick, Stevens Point, Wis.; Wm. Zillmer and wife, Antioch, Ill.; P. C. Goldie and wife, city.

## GASPARILLA CARNIVAL IS A NATIONAL INSTITUTION

Fame and Popularity Second Only to the Mardi Gras Carnival at New Orleans

Newspapers in New York, Cincinnati, Brooklyn, Cleveland, Boston, Chicago and Pittsburgh will on next Sunday carry handsomely illustrated feature stories relating to the Gasparilla carnival, which is a part of the amusement offered to those who attend the South Florida Fair here the period of February 2-9.

The Gasparilla carnival, staged each year during the fair period by Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla has, like the famous Mardi Gras of New Orleans, become a national institution. And because of its historical interest and picturesqueness the metropolitan dailies contribute space to it, and thus this splendid feature is advertised in advance throughout the country and brings many people to Tampa, from which point numbers make tours to other sections of the state.

The first event of the Gasparilla carnival occurs the evening of February 1 the night preceding the formal opening of the fair. This event will be the annual bachelors' ball, at the Tampa Yacht and Country Club. This is to be followed two nights later by the king's ball, at the Tampa Bay hotel, with Gasparilla XIII entertaining the Krewe members and their ladies. On February 5 the final rehearsals of the Krewe for the annual coronation ball will occur, at the Tampa Bay Casino. The annual "invasion" of the city by the pirates and its surrender to the horde by the officials, will occur February 6, during the afternoon, and that night the annual banquet of the pirates will be held at the Tampa Bay. The annual coronation ball, with Gasparilla XIII leaving the throne which he has filled for a year to make way for his successor, King Gasparilla XIV, will take place the evening of February 7 at the Tampa Bay casino.

### To Print Weekly Program

Hereafter the Plaza theatre will have published in the Herald a complete program of the coming week's attractions at this theatre. The Pathe news, a film depicting current events, is an added attraction that will be shown on Monday and Thursday nights in the future.

## FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD PREDICTS BETTER TIMES

There Will Be No Business Boom But a Gradual and Substantial Improvement

The most encouraging feature of the business situation at the opening of the new year is that a positive foundation has apparently been established upon which to build banking and business development during 1922, the federal reserve board declares in its monthly bulletin for January.

Policies to be pursued during 1922, the board asserted, should therefore be constructive rather than merely conservative and will probably show the results of this constructive quality in the form of proper enlargement of banking accommodations, greater ease and liberality in the money market and better prospects of business and economic developments.

The progress of business recovery during the past year was declared to have been "exceptionally uneven" but "in those lines of industry which supply the immediate needs of the general public a very satisfactory demand has been experienced and productive activity has steadily grown."

"It continues to be true, however," the board continued, "that no complete or general recovery of domestic business will be possible save through the rectification of foreign conditions. The economic outlook in the leading European countries at the opening of 1922, however, is evidently better, except in one principal element than it was six months ago."

This element, the board explained, was the failure of Germany to fulfill the reparations agreement.

"Aside from the menacing developments in Germany," the board continued, "and the maladjustment in prices and exchange which is generally conceded to be closely related to the terms of the reparations agreement, economic conditions show improvement over the state of things six months ago. The improvement is due to an actual revival in the demand for goods and has occurred in the face of very serious credit and currency conditions."

### Bridge Party

Last Thursday evening, Mrs. H. C. Goldstein delightfully entertained at bridge a party of friends composed of the following: Mr. and Mrs. DeZayas and Mr. Morrison of New York; Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain of Minneapolis; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Mobley; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Waltaire; Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Seward; Mrs. E. Woltzky, Mrs. Marina Richardson, Messrs. C. M. Carrier and C. Potter Lucas. There were four tables, and the games were highly interesting. The ladies prize, a sterling silver pencil, was awarded to Mrs. Woltzky; the booby prize, a bronze incense burner, to Mrs. Chamberlain; the gentleman's, a styptic shaving stick, to Jack Waltaire. At the close of the games, delicate refreshments consisting of several kinds of cake and ice cream in the national colors, were served.

### A Big Improvement

One of the most noticeable improvements made in Punta Gorda recently has been affected by the alterations and additions to what is generally known as "the inn" on Goldstein street. The inn was purchased recently by Chadwick brothers, who have it completely remodeled and refinished, and it now presents the appearance of a modern apartment house. There are thirty rooms in addition to a large lobby and a wide veranda, extending from the building to the sidewalk, has been built. It is understood that the rooms will be rented singly or en suite and when all the improvements contemplated are made this will be one of the most attractive rooming houses in the town. Another recent and very noticeable improvement has been affected by three coats of white paint applied to the Masonic hall.

### "The Fall of Babylon"

As previously announced, the "Fall of Babylon" will be shown at the local theatre Saturday and Sunday afternoons and a portion of the receipts will go to the Baptist church building fund. This picture will be shown beginning at three o'clock Saturday afternoon, but will not be shown at night. "Don't Ever Marry" will be shown Saturday night. "The Fall of Babylon" will be shown again Sunday afternoon at 3:30. A large number of tickets have been sold for both exhibitions of "The Fall of Babylon."

A smile is worth a dozen frowns in any market, and is easier to produce.